Delve Deeper into Promised Land
A film by Yoruba Richen

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of Monroe Township Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary Promised Land.

Though apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994, economic injustices between blacks and whites remain unresolved. As revealed in Yoruba Richen’s incisive Promised Land, the most potentially explosive issue is land. The film follows two black communities as they struggle to reclaim land from white owners, some of whom who have lived there for generations. Amid rising tensions and waverung government policies, the land issue remains South Africa’s “ticking time bomb,” with far-reaching consequences for all sides. Promised Land captures multiple perspectives of citizens struggling to create just solutions.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

**Apartheid**

Clark, Nancy L., and William H. Worger. South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid. New York, NY: Longman, 2004. This text outlines the nearly five-decade history of Apartheid regime, from its creation to tumultuous fall, of Apartheid in South Africa. The historical foundations of the system of Apartheid are summarized, including the origins of population, slavery and early manifestations of racism, and the consolidation of white rule.

Mandela, Nelson. Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela. New York, NY: Back Bay Book, 1995. Mostly written in secrecy during his 27-year imprisonment on Robben Island by South Africa’s apartheid regime, Mandela exposes his innermost feelings about his life as a public servant for justice. He talks about the family sacrifices he had to make, including the dissolution of two marriages and a distant family life, and how his strong spirit guided him through the most difficult of times.

**Land Reform**


**Reparations**


**South Africa/South African History**

Meredith, Martin. Diamonds, Gold, and War: The British, the Boers, and the Making of South Africa. New York, NY: PublicAffairs Books, 2008. Southern Africa was once regarded as a worthless jumble of tribal lands until the world’s richest deposits of diamonds and gold were discovered. The ensuing battle between British and the Boers for control of the land led to the costliest, bloodiest, and most humiliating war that Britain had waged in nearly a century, and the devastation of the Boer republics.


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**ADULT FICTION**

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country.* New York, NY: Scribner, 1948. This classic novel, set in the 1940’s, follows a Zulu priest as he travels from his South African village to Johannesburg in search of missing family members. When he discovers that his son was arrested for the murder of a white man, he must grapple with how to keep his family intact while dealing with the racial tension in Johannesburg.

**NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS**


Cruden, Alex, and Dedria Bryfonski. *The End of Apartheid.* Chicago, IL: Greenhaven Press, 2009. Middle-grade readers are provided with historical background information and essays about the implications and long lasting effects of apartheid. Personal narratives provide the reader with global awareness on international issues.

Isadora, Rachel. *At the Crossroads.* Logan, MA: Perfection Learning, 1994. Young readers can relate to the universal theme of anticipation of their parents’ return from work. Follow the tale of village children in South Africa as they await their fathers’ return after ten months of working in the mines.


Oluonye, Mary N. *South Africa.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2009. Oluonye provides full color illustrations for younger readers that cover life in South Africa including geography, wildlife, history, music and art.

**FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS**


**FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES**

“ABC News Nightline South Africa Series.” ABC News, 2006 TRT: 90 min. Legendary newsmen Ted Koppel goes to South Africa to speak with members of the ANC, South African government officials, members of the Zulu nation, and South Africans themselves on the future of South Africa as Nelson Mandela is about to be released from prison.


*Invictus.* A film by Clint Eastwood. Warner Bros. Pictures, 2009 TRT: 120:13 Knowing that his country was set to host the Rugby World Cup in 1995, Mandela believed the national team could provide an example of reconciliation in action.